REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-15 are pending in the application with claims 2 and 8 having been canceled, and claims 1, 14 and 15 having been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 14 and 15 can be found in the specification, e.g., on page 8, lines 21–23. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested as it is believed they place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

THE REJECTIONS

(1) The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the required ratio (greater than about 3:1) was not reasonably conveyed by the original disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims have obviated this rejection. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious, over Anderson (USPN 5,575,951). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Anderson discloses a homogeneous, clear liquid stabilizer said to be suitable for use in a vinyl chloride polymer comprising a liquid mixture of (1) at least one metal soap stabilizer and (2) a solubilized metal perchlorate." Anderson states (column 3, line 3): that "Solubilization of the perchlorate is preferably achieved by using a relatively high boiling

polar oxygenated solvent. [...] Representative solvents include tripropylene glycol, butylcarbitol, triethylene glycol, and butylene glycol."

The role of a polyalkylene glycol in Anderson, when used (tripropylene glycol or triethylene glycol), is to act as a solvent to obtain a clear homogeneous liquid stabilizer.

The present invention relates to a polyalkylene glycol, a metal perchlorate, optionally a metal soap, and other additives such as organic phosphites, etc.

In the invention as presently claimed, the main function of the polyalkylene glycol also is not as a solvent for sodium perchlorate or other strong acid salt. The polyalkylene glycol is a key active ingredient of the stabilizer. Which polyalkylene glycol is used matters for the performance of the stabilizer. It also matters whether a polyalkylene glycol or another solvent is used. This is clearly shown in the following examples in our application. In Example 1, runs 1, 2, and 3, equivalent molar amounts of triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, and pentaethylene glycol are used, respectively, all other factors are kept equal. The performance of stabilizer with tetraethylene glycol is significantly superior to that with the other two polyalkylene glycols (lower discoloration at 60 and 80 minutes). In Example 2, runs 5, 6, and 7, polyethylene glycol 200 (PEG 200), PEG 300, and PEG 400 are compared, all other factors are kept constant. These are mixtures of polyethylene glycols with molecular weights centered on 200, 300, and 400. The same trend as in Example 1 is seen, in that the compound stabilized with PEG 200, whose main component is tetraethylene glycol (MW = 194.2) (Run 7) has significantly better performance than the one with PEG 300 (at same weight) (Run 5) or the one with PEG 400 (Run 6) (see Ergb values at 40, 60, and 80

minutes). In Example 8, stabilizer performance with PEG 200 is considerably better than with glycerol mixtures Hexapol G-3 and Hexapol G-6.

Unexpected improvement in stabilizer performance is seen when tetraethylene glycol or PEG 200 are used, rather than other polyethylene glycols. This effect could not be predicted from the description in Anderson.

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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